CREATION IN THE QURAN

CHAPTER 1

One of the oldest questions to be asked about the universe was “how did it begin? “ That question always puzzled mankind. The answer to such question depended on the faith and civilization current to the scientist. But this essay would be focusing on creation in the Qur’an and in the Bible respectively.

Researchers find support to the evolutionary theory from the meanings of Quranic verses, which indicate that God Almighty started the creation of life on Earth, and then left it to evolve as a result of learning from the adaptation to various environments, with intervention from Him to make His creation better.

“*It is He Who has created you from dust then from a sperm-drop, then from a leech-like clot; then does he get you out (into the light) as a child: then lets you (grow and) reach your age of full strength; then lets you become old,- though of you there are some who die before;- and lets you reach a term appointed; in order that you may learn wisdom*.” [40:67]

According to *Tafsir Ibn Kathir*, this reference to man's creation from dust, implies the origin of mankind . the creation of the first human being, Prophet Adam from dust: “[“*And Allah did create you from dust, then from Nutfah”*], *means, He*

initiated the creation of your father Adam from dust, then He created his offspring from semen of worthless water."

Have not those who disbelieve seen (known) that the heavens and the Earth were of one connected entity, then we separated them (from each other), and we made every living thing out of water? Will they not then believe? (Al-Anbiya', 21: 30).

The first part of Verse 30 chapter 21tells us that the beginning of creation was by a great explosion that resulted in the separation of parts from the original single entity, or what cosmologists describe as the " big bang".

The second part of the Verse is about the relationship between life and water. It basically points to the fact that life depends on the availability of water, which has become a scientific given.

O humans! Be pious (careful of your duty) to your Lord, Who created you from a single self (soul), and from it He created its mate, and from them He has spread a multitude of men and women (Al-Nissa, 4: 1).

The verse above, tells us that the beginning of life was a single self (soul), then its mate came out of it. Biological science tells us that the earliest form of life was represented by single cell organisms found in water, and then these multiplied by

splitting themselves. With the course of time, reproduction evolved to become by mating pairs, instead of the archaic forms of splitting or dividing.

In a similar verses,"And of His signs: He has created for you from yourselves mates with whom you find rest , and He ordained between you love and mercy . In this, there are signs for people who ponde"r (Al-Room, 30: 21).

Also, in quran chapter 24:45 . Allah has created every animal out of water . Of them (is a category which) walks upon its belly, (another which) walks upon two legs, and (a third which) walks upon four . Allah creates what He wills. Allah is Able to do everything (he wants) .In this verse, Allah (Praise to Him) tells us that animals were originally created out of water (as was the origin of humans). Some of these animals walk on their belly (like snakes), others walk on two legs or on four legs.

Moreover, Quran chapter 32.7." (Allah is He) who has made everything He created better, and He **began** the creation of the human (being) out of clay".

In this verse, we are told that Allah (Praise to Him) **began** the creation of human beings out of clay, but that was the beginning, then He improved His creation making it better.

The word began is relevant because , it tells us clearly that creation happened in a process that had a beginning, not just at once This verse confirms the meaning included in 32:7, saying that there was a first creation, the creation of life, which then evolved according to a long process of learning how to adapt to the environment.

The scientific evidence tells us that the beginning of life was in an environment similar to swamps, which are composed basically of water and earth matter. This produced clay, where the first forms of life began in the form of single cell organisms. These organisms multiplied reproducing themselves first by splitting and division. However, later, they paired as males and females to reproduce as they took other life forms in the sea and on land. Reproduction has become in the form of uniting the watery genetic materials of males and females.

Allah says in chapter 32.v9. “Then He shaped him (in due proportions), and breathed in him of His Spirit, and made for you hearing, sight, and hearts; ...”

When the fetus reaches a degree of mental development that allows it to receive information, God’s basic software is installed in it. An angel blows part of God’s spirit in His new creation. In chap71.v14. He has created you in diverse (and successive) stages.

This verse may be interpreted to refer to the successive stages of the development of a fetus in its mother's womb. However, it can also be interpreted to refer to the successive stages of the human evolution. The latter interpretation has support from the following verse, chapter 6.v2." He is Who has created you from clay, then he spent a term of time (away from you), and (it is) a specific term he determined. Yet, you doubt (his ability)"!

In this verse, the Qu'ran tells us that God's creation of life from clay (which is a combination of water and earth soil) happened first a long time ago. God then stayed away from his creation letting it evolve to interfere when He determined that it was time to interfere.

More specific description of the kind of clay the first creation happened, as was mentioned above in Verse 15.26, is also mentioned in the following verses of chapter 23.12-14 :

We created the human being from a product of wet earth; (v12)

Then, We placed it as a nutfah (fertilized egg) in a safe (deep) lodging; (v13)

Then, We created the nutfah into an alaqa (leech).

Then, We created the alaqa into mudghah (a little lump, like a chewed substance).

Then, We created the mudghah into bones.

Then, We clothed the bones with flesh.

Then, We produced it (the human being) as another creation.

So blessed be Allah, the Best of creators! (v14). (Al-Mu'-minoon, 23: 12-14).

O humans! Be pious (careful of your duty) to your Lord, Who created you from a single self (soul), and from it He created its mate, and from them He has spread a multitude of men and women (Al-Nissa, 4: 1).

This verse tells us that the beginning of life was a single self (soul), and then its mate came out of it. Biological science tells us that the earliest form of life was represented by single cell organisms found in water, and then these multiplied by splitting themselves. With the course of time, reproduction evolved to become by mating pairs, instead of the archaic forms of splitting or dividing.

"Are you the harder to create Or. is it the heaven that (God) built? He raised its canopy and fashioned it with harmony. He made dark the night and he brought out the forenoon. And after that (*ba' da dalika*) He spread it out. Therefrom he drew out its water and its pasture. And the mountains He has fixed firmly. Goods for you and your cattle." Verses 27 to 33 chapter 79

The above verse reveals the earthly gifts from God to man, which is expressed In a language suited to farmers or nomads on the Arabian Peninsula, is preceded by an

invitation to reflect on the creation of the heavens. The reference to the stage when God spreads out the earth and renders it arable is very precisely situated in time after the alternating of night and day has been achieved.

Apart from human creation , the knowledge of the universe is also reveal in the Holy Qur'an. In Quran chap 30:22 "an And of His sign is the creation of the heavens and the earth, as well as the difference of your languages and colors. In these, there are signs for people of knowledge."

Qur'an 79:30 . "And the Earth, after that, He made it egg-shaped".

The Earth is shaped in the form of a less-than-prefect globe, pointed at its both poles and enlarged a little bit at its equator. So, it is not flat as Europeans thought at the time of the revelation and for centuries after that. If the Holy Qur'an described the Earth shape as just a circular globe, then somebody would challenge

it later because it is a little bit less than a perfect globe. That's why it is described as an egg-shaped, which is the closest shape that people could identify.

The egg-shape of the Earth allows the light coming from the Sun to reach our planet in different distances, the shortest of which is to the equator and the longest is to each of the North and South poles.

It follows that the equatorial region is the hottest because it is the closest to the sun, while the Arctic and Antarctic regions are the coldest because they are the farthest regions from the sun. This explains differences in human languages and skin color,

In addition, sura 78 verse 12-"We have built above you seven strong (heavens) and placed a blazing lamp." This verse tells us the magnificent creation of the seven heavens and the “blazing lamp”. (the sun)

CHAPTER 2

CREATION IN THE BIBLE

Genesis 1:1-2:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. Hebrews 11:3.

In Genesis 1:1- 2:3 the opening chapter of begins with these words, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This summarizes the drama that was about to unfold. From the text that the earth was formless, moved over the waters preparing to perform God's creative Word. And then God began to speak into existence his creation. This drama can be summarized as follows;

7 Days of Creation

- **Day 1** - God created light and separated the light from the darkness, calling light "day" and darkness "night."
- **Day 2** - God created an expanse to separate the waters and called it "sky."
- **Day 3** - God created the dry ground and gathered the waters, calling the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters "seas." On day three, God also created vegetation (plants and trees).
- **Day 4** - God created the sun, moon, and the stars to give light to the earth and to govern and separate the day and the night. These would also serve as signs to mark seasons, days, and years.
- **Day 5** - God created every living creature of the seas and every winged bird, blessing them to multiply and fill the waters and the sky with life.

- **Day 6** - God created the animals to fill the earth. On day six, God also created man and woman (Adam and Eve) in his own image to commune with him. He blessed them and gave them every creature and the whole earth to rule over, care for, and cultivate.
- **Day 7** - God had finished his work of creation and so he rested on the seventh day, blessing it and making it holy.

  Taking into account the above descriptions, when God created the universe,[2] the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. [3] Then God commanded, "Let there be light"—and light appeared.[4] God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, [5] and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day.

  - [6-7] Then God commanded, "Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places"—and it was done. So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it. [8] He named the dome "Sky." Evening passed and morning came—that was the second day.
  - [9] Then God commanded, "Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that the land will appear"—and it was done. [10] He named the land "Earth," and the water which had come together he named "Sea." And God was pleased with what he saw. [11] Then he commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit"—and it was done. [12] So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw. [13] Evening passed and morning came—that was the third day.

- 14 Then God commanded, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin; 15 they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth”—and it was done. 16 So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars. 17 He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, 18 to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw. 19 Evening passed and morning came—that was the fourth day.
- 20 Then God commanded, “Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds.” 21 So God created the great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water, and all kinds of birds. And God was pleased with what he saw. 22 He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number. 23 Evening passed and morning came—that was the fifth day.
- 24 Then God commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small”—and it was done. 25 So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw.
- 26 Then God said, “And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.” 27 So God created human beings, making them to be like Him. He created them male and female, 28 blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. 29 I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; 30 but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants

for food”—and it was done. 31 God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came—that was the sixth day.

Genesis 2Good News Translation (GNT)

And so the whole universe was completed. By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working. 3 He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day he had completed his creation[a] and stopped working. 4 And that is how the universe was created.

When the LORD God made the universe, 5 there were no plants on the earth and no seeds had sprouted, because he had not sent any rain, and there was no one to cultivate the land; 6 but water would come up from beneath the surface and water the ground.

“Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” Genesis 2:7

Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and there he put the man he had formed. 9 He made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit. In the middle of the garden stood the tree that gives life and the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.

10 A stream flowed in Eden and watered the garden; beyond Eden it divided into four rivers. 11 The first river is the Pishon; it flows around the country of Havilah. (12 Pure gold is found there and also rare perfume and precious stones.) 13 The second river is the Gihon; it flows around the country of Cush. 14 The third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria, and the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 Then the LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. 16 He told him, “You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, 17 except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.[f] You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day.”

18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him.” 19 So he took some soil from the ground and formed all the animals and all the birds. Then he brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and that is how they all got their names. 20 So the man named all the birds and all the animals; but not one of them was a suitable companion to help him.

21 Then the LORD God made the man fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh.22 He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to him. 23 Then the man said,

“At last, here is one of my own kind—
Bone taken from my bone, and flesh from my flesh.
‘Woman’ is her name because she was taken out of man.”[g]
24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one.

“Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared”.(Mathew 2:7) tells how God brought the stars into being.

Hebrews 11:3 continue to tell us that- “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.” Here God is revealing to mankind that apart from the seen, there is also the invisible creation.

Furthermore, Colossians 1:16 continue to throw light to the above verse." For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him".

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." Revelation 4:11

Further, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made". John 1:1-3 shows that God's creation was a decree by words.

Also, Exodus 20:11 says-"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. This verse indicates that God's creation was created in six days.

Genesis 1:24-25 "And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

In addition, "But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? Job 12:7-9 this verse indicates that all creations in

the heavens, land, seas knows that these magnificent creation was designed by the Almighty God.

Furthermore, Genesis 1:26 says Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” In this verse God decided to make man superior over all the other creations on earth.

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” Romans 1:20. This verse tells us how supreme our God is and He kept some of His invisible attributes secretly from His creations.

Also, Peter 3:5 says- “For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God” Here we saw that the heavens were created before the earth.

Psalms 33:6 continue to tell us that – “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth their entire host.” This verse make us to know that God Almighty created His creation by words and breath of his mouth all the host

“Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.” Revelation 14:6-7. In this verse God state clearly

through His angel that He has created us not for anything but that we should worship and glorify Him. This is God's order to His creations.

In that connections, Exodus 20:8-11"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. This verse emphasized the fact that will need to worship our Creator and most especially keeping the Sabbath day holy.

In the same vein, God said in Genesis 1:20 "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." Thus making the creations to enjoy the beauty of His creation.

Moreover, Jeremiah 10:12 says "It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. This verse goes further explain to the magnificent wisdom of God's power in creation.

Moreover, in Job 33:4 "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life". This verse comes in to confirm the existence of Jesus Christ who was born by the Virgin Mary when God Almighty decreed something it became. This shows His supreme nature over all His creations.

In addition, God says "Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him: "Ask me of things to come; will you command me concerning

my children and the work of my hands? I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded their entire host." (Isaiah 45:11-12)

Psalm 90:2 – "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." This affirmed that God Almighty who is our Creator remain everlasting above everything.

In Genesis 2:4 "These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens."

In another dimension, Isaiah 45:18 says "For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): I am the LORD, and there is no other". Here the Lord God after creating His creation, then tells us that, none is comparable to Him.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse ».(Romans 1 :18-20) . A close view of this verse will tell us that God has created mankind and had given him the right to choose, either right or wrong

Also, Acts 17:24-28 says “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘for we are indeed his offspring.”

A Psalm of David. (Psalm 24:1-2)The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Corinthians 4:18 makes us to understands that there are two types of creations-“As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

Moreover, Amos 4:13 says that “For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!:

“Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature that was its name.”(Genesis 2:19). This verses tell us the morphology of creation

God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.”(Genesis 1:10-11) And so it was.

Conclusion

With the above illustrations of the morphology of creation from the Qu' ran and the holy Bible, it is obvious that there was Greatest being (God) Who triggered the process and the mystics of creation putting everything in shape and order by ordering "be" and it "became". Also the two books equally shows some similar issues regarding creation.

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